

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 5-8, and 12-20 have been amended to explicitly recite what was implicit, to further clarify the invention, and/or to correct informalities. Amendments to the claims are not intended to limit the scope of the invention. Support for the claim amendments can be found, for instance, on page 7, lines 3-21 of the Specification. Applicant reserves the right to pursue any of the amended claims in their original form in a continuation application. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner is thanked for speaking with the Applicant's attorney over the telephone on April 20, 2006. During the telephone interview, proposed amendments to claims 1 and 15 were discussed in conjunction with the Pirahesh reference (5,960,426). The Examiner agreed that the proposed amendments would overcome the current rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 101, 102, and 103. Accordingly, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 15, as well as claim 8, with the proposed claim language.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 8, and 15, as amended, and the claims that depend therefrom, satisfy the requirements under 35 U.S.C. § 101 and are patentable over the current cited art.

CONCLUSION

On the basis of the above remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the claims is believed to be warranted and such action is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions or comments, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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